

St. Paul's Church
Baden
Prince Georges County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-110

HABS

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17. BAD

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Baltimore District

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office

Addendum To:
ST. PAULS CHURCH
NW side Baden-Naylor Road at the
intersection with Horsehead Road
Baden
Prince Georges County
Maryland

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PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. PAUL'S, BADEN
(St. Paul's Parish Church,
St. Paul's Episcopal Church)

HABS NO. MD-110

Location: Northwest side of Baden-Naylor Road at the intersection of Horsehead Road, Baden vicinity, Prince George's County, Maryland

Present Owner: Vestry of St. Paul's Church

Present Use: Religious services

Significance: St. Paul's at Baden is the oldest church in Prince George's County, and one of only six churches extant from the colonial period. In May of 1692, the Governor's Council and the Maryland Assembly--acting on orders from King William and Queen Mary--established thirty Maryland parishes of the Church of England. St Paul's was one of two parishes then formed in Prince George's County. The present church structure was built in 1733-35 (with later additions forming a cruciform plan) to replace an older parish church in Charles Town, the original county seat. At one time, St. Paul's was the richest parish the state.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: St. Paul's Church at Baden was built in 1733-35, with substantial changes and additions made in 1769, 1793 and 1857.
2. Original plans and construction: The Vestry minutes of October 10, 1733, give the specifications for the new church building. It was to be built of well burnt brick and was to be 50' x 27'. The church was originally a rectangular structure to which were added wings, reorienting the church and forming a cruciform plan. According to the minutes, the original entrance was to the west side (with a gallery above it on the interior), and there were brick-paved porches to the south and north (current front and rear).
3. Alterations and additions: According to the Vestry minutes, the following changes have been made: In 1769, the porch on the north side of the building was enclosed

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and pews were installed. In 1793, a 26' x 30' addition was made to the south side of the church, the main entrance and gallery were then moved to the south, and the north porch was made into a vestry room. In 1857, major repairs and restoration work was undertaken, including the construction of a new roof (with interior truss-work exposed), the remodeling of the chancel, and the addition of a walnut railing, altar desk and pulpit. In 1882, the old vestry room (originally the north porch) was removed and replaced with a recessed chancel. In 1921, the sanctuary was widened and the chancel deepened. Thus, the original section of the church consisted of what is now recognized as the transepts (and the area between them).

B. Historical Context:

Maryland is said to be the first home of religious toleration. Although the Calverts and other early settlers of Maryland were proud of that distinction, there were evidently those who felt that as a result, organized religion was lacking in Maryland. In an effort to remedy this, the Lords of Trade and Plantation appealed to Lord Baltimore to provide for an allowance for ministers of the gospel in 1677. Since the Hawk & Dove had landed in 1634, there were only four ministers in the entire province. It was not until 1689, when King William and Queen Mary ascended the throne, however, that their appeal for assistance in this matter was heard.

In answer, Governor Lionel Copley was sent, and in May of 1692 he initiated meetings with the Governors Council and the Maryland Assembly. The result was the Act of 1692 which established thirty parishes. Two of the thirty parishes were established in what--four years later--would become Prince George's County. These were St. Paul's, which had already been in existence for ten years, and St. John's Church (at Piscataway or Broad Creek).

The original St. Paul's Parish Church was, however, located at Mount Calvert, which was the original county seat. The county seat was later moved to Upper Marlboro and the town of Mount Calvert began dwindling in population. Thus, when it became necessary to make repairs to the church, it was decided that a new building be erected at Baden instead. (Evidently, shifts in population had occurred then, and have reoccurred since

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that time. The Baden of today is not an area of concentrated population).

Thus, the vestrymen and wardens of St Paul's Parish petitioned the County Court to "assess all taxables in the parish any quantity of tobacco that they might deem proper, not exceeding 20,000 pounds in any one year, the assessment to be used to build a new church" (Van Horn, p. 69). Construction began in 1733, and the new St. Paul's was completed in 1735. The project was undertaken under the direction of the Reverend John Eversfield, who was inducted as the Rector of St. Paul's Parish by Governor Benedict Calvert in 1728. St. Paul's, during this time, was said to be the richest parish in Maryland.

The church has undergone a number of changes over the years, the most significant of which occurred in 1793, when a 26' x 30' addition was made to the south side of the church, the main entrance and gallery were then moved to the south, and the north porch was made into a vestry room. This change reoriented the church and created the current cruciform plan. In 1857, major repairs and restoration work was undertaken, including the construction of a new roof, with exposed interior truss-work.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: St. Paul's is a rural, Colonial-era church. Although the original main structure still exists, the church was significantly altered during the mid- to late-18th century, reorienting the front and creating a cruciform plan (still making it one of the earliest churches in the county). As an early rural church, it is fairly small and simple, lacking a tower or belfry. It is, however, refined in the details it does exhibit, such as the round-arched molded doorways and windows, and the rosette window over the door. Although enlarged years ago, its original rectangular basilical plan was typical of an Anglican church plan.

2. Condition of fabric: The church appears to be in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: St. Paul's is a one-story, rectangular, bisilical-plan church structure, with later additions forming a cruciform plan.

2. Foundation: The foundation is of brick laid in English bond.

3. Walls: The walls are of brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers and a molded-brick water table.

4. Structural system, framing: The church is of load-bearing brick construction.

5. Chimneys: There are three small brick chimney stacks with vaulted chimney caps, one to either side, at the crux of the cruciform plan, and another to the front of the east side transept.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The main entry is located to the center of the south front facade. It is a round-arch, double-door entry with molded panels in a semi-circle above the doors. The doorway has an arched brick lintel and a narrow, molded wood surround. The molded-panel doors are held by strap hinges. There is also a doorway at the west side wall to the rear of the transept. It is a wooden door of diagonal boards with a plain wooden surround and an arched brick lintel. To the north rear of the church is a small, partially in-ground, brick entryway into the cellar.

b. Windows: The windows are round-arched, twenty-four-over-eighteen-light-sash windows with arched brick lintels. The panes vary in size, with the center panes being larger. There is a colored-glass, tripartite window at the end of each transept, also round-arched. There is an ornamental stained-glass rosette window above the front entry.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: St. Paul's has a cross-gable roof covered with diamond-shaped asphalt shingles.

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b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves extend with a simple crown molding along the outside edge, and a plain frieze board.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The church enters into a narthex, beyond which lies the open cruciform plan of the church consisting of a nave and transepts, beyond which lies the apse flanked by sacristy rooms. The narthex has a small room to either side, and a doorway to the gallery above. The gallery runs the width of the main section of the church and is filled with pews.

2. Stairway: There is a boxed-winder stairway from the entry vestibule to the gallery above.

3. Flooring: The floor of the church has been covered with linoleum tiles, except for the apse where there is carpeting over the wood floors.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls in the apse have wooden wainscoting. In the nave, there is a molded wooden cornice, and the ceiling is covered with wood ceiling board framed by purlins, with exposed ornamented roof trusses.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: There are double doors, with a plain wooden surround, between the front vestibule and the nave of the church. The apse area is set back in a large archway, with doorways leading to sacristy rooms to either side, as well as an exterior doorway.

b. Windows: The round-arched windows are recessed, without surrounds. A large, round-arched tripartite stained-glass window lights the altar.

6. Decorative features and trim: The church contains boxed pews, the doors of which have been removed. There are a number of what appear to be older pews in the transept areas. They are wooden with high backs, and high trefoil-patterns sides. There is an altar rail with bracketed turned balusters. The wooden altar has three panels with carved patterns. To the rear of the church is a marble baptismal font, resting on a raised,

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balustraded platform, with a small altar. The closed balustrade of the gallery above has arched, pilastered panels.

7. Lighting: There are five hexagonal glass lanterns that hang from chains at the cross points of the roof trusses.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: St. Pauls faces south, on the northwest side of Baden-Naylor Road at the intersection of Horsehead Road. There is a brick walk which leads from the front entry to the street, where there is a low-arch wall with piers to either side.

2. Historic landscape design: To the north rear of the church is the cemetery.

3. Outbuildings, structures: To the north rear of the church is a free-standing bell tower consisting of a metal superstructure topped by a bell and operated by a pull-cord.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early Views: St. Paul's was photo-documented in 1936 by HABS photographers John O. Brostrup and Delos H. Smith. Only Brostrup's photographs are large-format, showing views of the front elevation, with details of the entry and sundial above, a typical window, and the brickwork. Smith's views are of the front elevation, entryway, and side elevation with the bell tower to the rear.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Child, Mary A. (St. Paul's Church) and Pamela James (Maryland Historical Trust). National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, St. Paul's Parish Church (Baden), prepared December 1975.

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2. Secondary and published sources:

Van Horn, R. Lee. Out of the Past; Prince Georgians and their Land. Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society, 1976.

Virta, Alan. Prince George's County; A Pictorial History. Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Company Publishers, 1984.

Wilfong, James C., Jr. "The Original Parishes"
The Prince George's Post, 30 November 1967.

_____. "St. Paul's Church at Baden," The Prince George's Post, 18 June 1970.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation of St. Paul's Church was undertaken as part of a cooperative project between the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, and the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission to document select sites throughout the county. A memorandum of agreement was signed in August of 1988 and the project, to span one year, was begun in January of 1989. The site selection was made by Gail Rothrock, director and Susan G. Pearl, research historian of the HPC. They also provided access to their historical research on file with the HPC as well as their extensive knowledge of county history. The large format photography was undertaken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher. This historical report was prepared by HABS historian Catherine C. Lavoie who accompanied the photographer into the field for an on site investigation.